Oct 10, 1989

Follow-up to the infamous TASS dispatch this evening on national Public Radio's *All Things Considered*: A correspondent of theirs who works for TASS said "TASS *never* tells jokes. Not even on April first."

According to the original correspondent, Vladimir Lebedyev, the witnesses were evidently a group of ten children, 12-13 years of age, who were "frightened for days" after the event. Lebedyev adds that "it is not excluded that there is also some fantasizing." The TASS agency itself is also looking into the event. Deputy editor Igor Efimov said experts are being sent to Veronyezh (here spelled phonetically) and that additional information would be forthcoming. "If it's a hoax, that is one thing," Efimov said. "If it is a mistake, that is another thing."

"And if it's true," added NPR, "that is something else again."

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